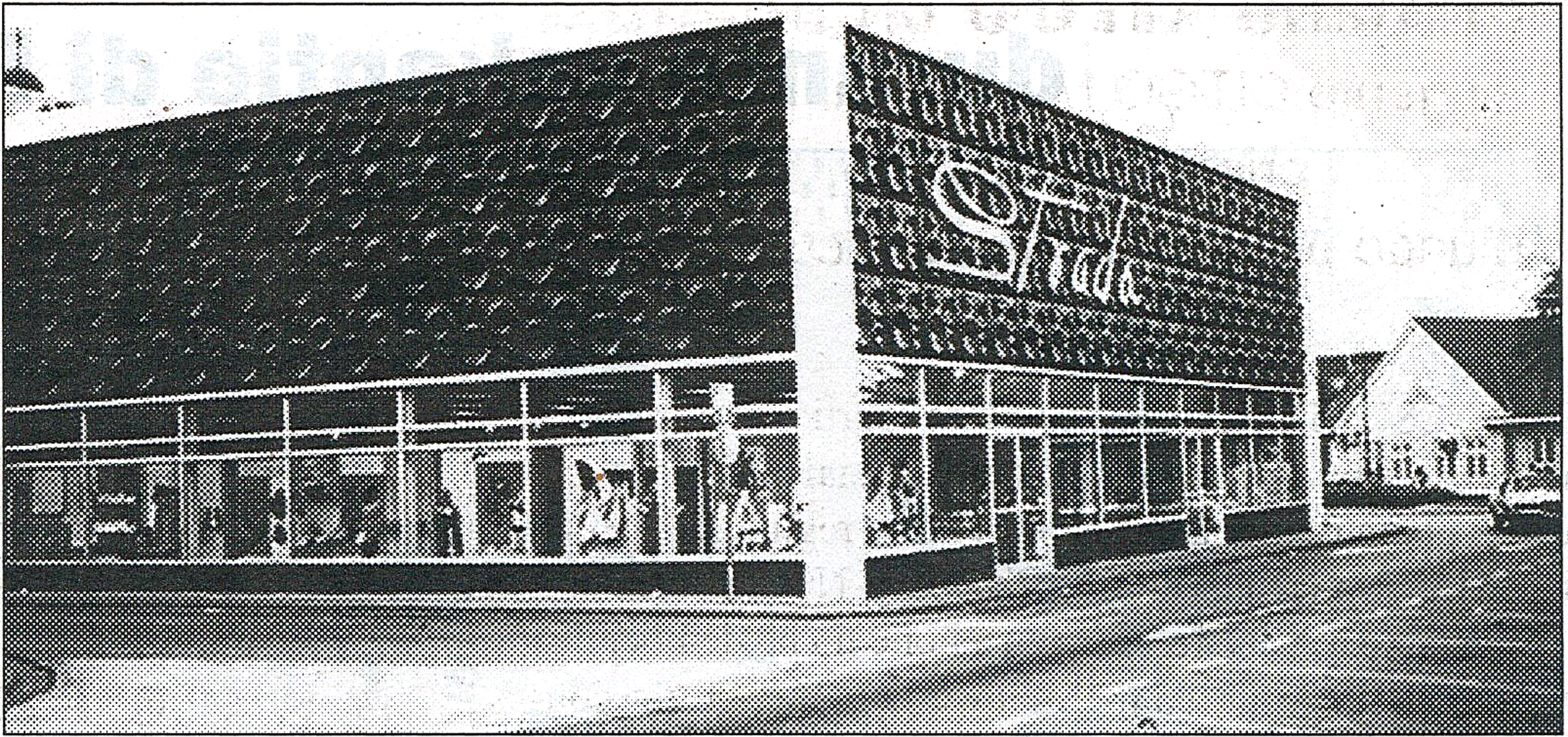


#in memoriam

Shea Lichtensztajn



A friend of the family and a remarkable Aruban

In 1971 the MEP party was formed under the leadership of the late Betico Croes. He lead an impressive list of young men that were idealistic, hungry and eager to work for the benefit and progress of Aruba.

My father was one of them and it was through him that I got to know Shea at a very early age. He often came to the house and always greeted me in a friendly and courteous way. While I know that my dad and Shea were friends, I didn't know at that time the significance of Shea in politics in those days and ultimately the impact of his involvement for Aruba.

Here is where the narrative of my dad kicks in:

"I first met Shea when he was a shopkeeper in San Nicolas. I don't recall the name of the store. What I do recall is that folks from all over the island used to go to his store and he made everybody feel welcome. As new politicians we used to go to him many times for advice and input on a wide array of matters. There was a time that we sort of took over his office in Strada as our MEP offices. So besides offering us his friendship and words of wisdom he offered us housing and coffee. Over the years he also helped us with jobs for our constituents in need and in many many other ways. All this in a partisan way or should I say despite his ties to the PPA. Once we were in office Shea was appointed to various committees where he continued to serve is with his valuable input. Input that helped us in those days to shape the vision MEP had for Aruba. There are a few of us left from those days yet I feel it is important for the current generation of MEP politicians realize the significance and impact that Shea had on the party and Aruba. Over the years we mantiened contact although the coffee sessions became more and more incidental. The friendship however never dwindled. Whenever we met it was a moment to rekindle, to look back at the good times we had and enjoy each other's company. The news of his passing saddens me. It is with a a heavy heart that I will have to say farewell to my dear friend Shea but I will always remember what he meant for me, for the MEP and for Aruba in general".

Now back to my story.

I also developed a special relationship with Shea. Besides being a friend of the family and probably because he was a friend of the family he gave me my first (summer) job. Yes, I got to work at Strada doing chores, running errands between Strada and Ecco, unpacking merchandise, re-stocking racks, cleaning and the list goes on. The list was long but he made sure I was kept busy and in the process had to learn a thing or two about being responsible, being on time and being reliable. All things that as I later found out would come in handy in live. Incidentally later in life we were able to transact some real estate business together. One of those moments when you realize that you have grown.

The above would not have been possible without my late mom Jane who was a very close to Shea and of memory serves me right brokered my job at Strada. He was no stranger to others in our family such as my aunt Iris and my late uncle Jacobo and my aunt Iraida. He was a friend of and to the family.

All and all an entrepreneur, a political statehist, a trusted advisor, an employer, a business partner, a remarkable man and above all a true friend and a kind soul.

To his beloved wife Joyce, his brother Sensei Adolph and Aunt Frida and the rest of the family and friends, we wish you strength in the days to come and trust that you will find comfort in the way Shea lives his life and the the way he touched the life's of others around him.

Milton Delwin Gomez &
Lincoln (Dello) Gomez

Aruba, February 19th, 2019

Photo by: Harvey Hodge.